



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 10**

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OFFICE OF  
ECOSYSTEMS, TRIBAL AND  
PUBLIC AFFAIRS

August 27, 2012

Hank A. Baij, Jr., Project Manager  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 6898  
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

Re: EPA comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Point Thomson Project,  
EPA Project # 09-070-COE

Dear Mr. Baij:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Point Thomson Project, North Slope, Alaska. Our comments are provided in accordance with our responsibilities and authorities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act (CAA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as our responsibilities as a Cooperating Agency for the EIS.

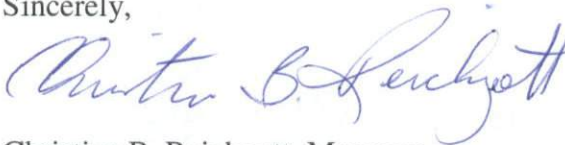
In comments on previous versions of the EIS, we identified recommendations regarding the air quality analysis, the inclusion of a draft 404(b)(1) analysis under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, alternate project configurations, as well as other subjects evaluated in the EIS. From our review of the final EIS we acknowledge that many of our recommendations have been incorporated into the document. In addition, we understand that the project applicant, ExxonMobil Corporation and PTE Pipeline LLC, is continuing to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers on modifications to their proposed alternative in order to further minimize impacts, particularly to coastal and aquatic resources.

Based on these conclusions, we do not have any further recommendations at this time to offer for the Record of Decision. However, we would note that if project changes currently being evaluated result in a project that substantially differs from the one evaluated in the EIS, the Corps will need to make the determination as to whether additional NEPA analysis is warranted.

We appreciate the opportunity that we have had in serving as a cooperating agency on this EIS. We again commend the Corps, its consultant, HDR, Inc., and the rest of the Coordination Team for the rigorous evaluation and thorough process that has been undertaken for this EIS and has resulted in a high quality analysis. We are encouraged that the document will be useful to other agencies and interested stakeholders, and will help ensure an informed decision by the Corps.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide comments on the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Point Thomson Project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by email at [reichgott.christine@epa.gov](mailto:reichgott.christine@epa.gov), or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or by email at [curtis.jennifer@epa.gov](mailto:curtis.jennifer@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Christine B. Reichgott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Christine" and last name "Reichgott" being the most prominent parts.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager  
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit